

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 09906 132029Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----123944 132032Z /12

O 121715Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1939  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI  
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

S E C R E T KINSHASA 9906

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS  
TAGS: PDIP, SREF, AO, CG  
SUBJECT: RETURN OF REFUGEES TO SHABA

REF: (A) STATE 228540 (B) GENEVA 13682

1. ON SEPTEMBER 12 CHARGE DISCUSSED POSSIBLE ROLE FOR UNHCR IN ZAIRIAN REFUGEE SITUATION WITH GOZ DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE NIMY, WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IDZUMBUIR, AND WITH UNHCR REP GILES SICOTTE. SICOTTE CONFIRMED REPORT THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAD ASKED UNSYG FOR HELP ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO. SICOTTE SAID UNSYG HAD MADE DECISION THAT HCR WOULD ASSIST EVEN THOUGH THIS REQUIRED DEPARTURE FROM ITS TRADITIONAL POSITION (PARA 3, REF B).

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UNHCR KINSHASA NOW NEEDS WRITTEN REQUEST FROM GOZ SPECIFYING WHAT IT WANTS UNHCR TO DO.  
SICOTTE HAS BEEN SEEKING APPOINTMENTS WITH NIMY, GENERAL BABIA, OR IDZUMBUIR TO OBTAIN SUCH A WRITTEN REQUEST BUT IS HAVING LITTLE SUCCESS IN HIS EFFORTS.

2. CHARGE TOLD PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR NIMY THAT USG AND

OTHER GOVERNMENTS "SENSITIZED" AT MEETING AT FON MINISTRY ON AUGUST 21 WERE SYMPATHETIC TO ZAIRE'S REFUGEE PROBLEMS. SOME, INCLUDING THE US, WERE WILLING TO EXAMINE IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATING IN AN EVENTUAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. HOWEVER, WE FELT A NEED FOR A COORDINATING MECHANISM AND BELIEVED UNHCR SHOULD BE ENCOURAGE TO TAKE THE LEAD. NIMY SAID GOZ HAD DECIDED THAT UNGCR WAS APPROPRIATE AGENCY FOR THAT ROLE, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS PREPARING AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR ITS HELP. WHEN CHARGE TOLD NIMY WE UNDERSTOOK FROM UNHCR THAT BUREAUCRATIC WHEELS WERE TURNING VERY SLOWLY, NIMY SUGGESTED CHARGE RAISE MATTER WITH FON MINISTRY.

3. WHEN CHARGE DISCUSSED SUBJECT ALONG SIMILAR LINES WITH ACTING FON MINISTER, IDZUMBUIR SAID LETTER TO UNHCR WAS INDEED BEING PREPARED FOR SIGNATURE OF STATE COMMISSIONER UMBA WHEN LATTER RETURNS LATER THIS WEEK. IDZUMBUIR SAID GOZ BELIEVES THAT FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS SHOULD BE REPATRIATION OF ZAIRIANS NOW IN SUDAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, IDZUMBUIR ANTICIPATED AN EARLY VISIT TO JUBA BY A JOINT SUDANESE/ZAIRIAN TEMA TO ASSEMBLE LISTS OF PROPOSEED RETURNEES. GOZ INTENDS TO ASK THAT UNHCR PROVIDE PERSONNEL TO PARTICIPATE IN WORK OF THAT TEAM. CHARGE ASKED WHETHER GOZ CONSIDERED NEEDS OF REFUGEES NOW IN SUDAN MORE CRITICAL THAN THOSE OF PEOPLE RETURNING FROM ANGOLA. IDZUMBUIR REPLIED THAT BOTH WERE URGENT, AND SHABAN PROBLEM IS MUCH LARGER. HOWEVER, GOZ  
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PLANNING IS ALREADY FAR ADVANCED ON SUDANESE PROBLEM, PRIMARILY BECAUSE ZAIRE HAS AN EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM AND THEREFORE HAS A COMPARATIVELY CLEAR IDEA OF THE TASK THERE.

4. COMMENT: IDZUMBUIR'S REMARKS AND OTHER EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT GOZ IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED OVER SECURITY ASPECTS OF RETURNEES FROM ANGOLA. THIS PROBABLY EXPLAINS IN PART GOZ'S FOOT DRAGGING ON ENGAGING UNHCR OR ANY OTHER NON-ZAIRIANS IN SHABAN REPATRIATION/RELIEF EFFORT. SUCH A DELIBERATE APPROACH, OF COURSE, HAS SECURITY DANGERS OF ITS OWN. WE THEREFORE PLAN TO KEEP PRESSURE ON BOTH GOZ AND UNHCR, AT LEAST UNTIL WE HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE NATURE AND MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, REPATRIATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RETURN OF REFUGEES TO SHABA  
**TAGS:** PDIP, SREF, AO, CG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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